GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5800
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
INDO-U.K TIES
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Ministerial level visits or contacts took place between India and the U.K between July 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000;

(b) if so, the level at which visits were exchanged between the U.K and India in the calendar year 2000;

(c) whether he visited the U.K. during the above mentioned calendar year and exchanged views on different issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof.

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the calendar year 2000, both Ministerial and official visits were exchanged between India and the U.K. Ministerial visits exchanged during 1 July to 31 December 2000, include visits to the UK by our Ministers of External Affairs, and Environment and Forests and visits to India by the British Ministers of Home, Defence, Small Business and e-Commerce, and their Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

(c) & (d) The Minister of External Affairs visited the U.K from 13-14 January 2000 and 15-16 November 2000. These visits have been part of the ongoing intensive and wide-ranging dialogue on bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest between the two countries. On both occasions he exchanged views with Mr. Robin Cook, UK`s Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and other senior British interlocutors. These discussions enabled a review of our multi-faceted relationship with the U.K. Issues pertaining to global and regional developments, UN peacekeeping operations and UNSC reform, cooperation in counter-terrorism and consular matters and cooperation in the fields of education and defence, were discussed.

In pursuance of these discussions, several new initiatives have been adopted to enrich our bilateral relationship. An India-UK Joint Working Group has been set up for cooperation in combating international terrorism and drug-trafficking. An official-level dialogue has commenced to enhance mutual understanding on issues pertaining to disarmament and non-proliferation. A non-governmental group, India-UK Round Table has been established to broaden bilateral dialogue and to suggest new ways of consolidating the relationship.